



This handy deck bench can be used for extra seating or as an extra BBQ table.

Building an outdoor bench

Materials needed

1 inch x 4 inch pine boards

2 inch x 2 inch pine boards

Circular saw

Tape measure

Carpenter's square

Cordless drill/screwdriver

Galvanized wood screws

Exterior spackle

Sandpaper

Primer/latex exterior paint

Step 1: What kind of topping?

Cut five 1 inch x 4 inch top boards measuring 4 feet in length. Use the circular saw to cut the boards to length. Sand smooth using 120 grit sandpaper and soften the edges. Remember you'll be sitting on this, so make it comfy.

Step 2: I'll have a leg please.

Cut four 2 inch x 2 inch boards to a length of 16 inches, these will be used for the inside of the legs. Cut eight 1 inch x 4 inch boards to a length of 16 inches, these will be the outer part of the leg.

Attach the 1 inch x 4 inch boards to the 2 inch x 2 inch pieces, lay them lengthwise together and attach using 1 1/4 inch galvanized screws. What you will have is a 2 inch x 2 inch bordered by the two 1 inch x 4 inch pieces, shaped like an "L." Assemble all 4 legs in this manner. Sand lightly with 120 grit sandpaper.

Step 3: And your side choices are ...

Cut the front and the back apron boards out of 1 inch x 4 inch lumber to a length of 37 1/2 inches. Why the half? Once the sides are attached to the legs, the length of the sides and the legs together will allow the top boards to hang over 3 inches on each end, get it? You will. Cut the two side aprons out of the 1 inch x 4 inch to 14 1/2 inches in length.

Step 4: Set the bench

Lay two legs down flat and attach the front apron to the back of the legs. The board should butt against the 2 inch x 2 inch legs; attach it using 1 inch galvanized screws.

Do the same for the other two legs. Then attach the two side aprons to complete the bottom of the bench.

To support the top boards, cut three 2 inch x 2 inch boards to the length of the measurement between the front and back apron. Attach to the inside of the front and back apron by drilling pilot holes and using galvanized screws. The three boards should be spaced evenly along the length of the front and backboard for maximum strength. Patch the holes with exterior filler. You should have the bottom of the bench constructed.

Step 5: Put the topping on.

Find the centre of the side aprons and mark the spot. Set the first top board so that the centre of the top board will rest on the centre of the side apron. Allow the board to hang over 3 inches on each end. Screw up from underneath the 2 inch x 2 inch into the bottom of the top board using 1 inch galvanized screws.

Drill pilot holes through the 2 inch x 2 inch so the wood won't split.

Using a couple of nails as a spacer, place the next board on the top of the bench and again attach from underneath. Do this for the remaining top boards. You should have an overhang at the edge of 1 inch.

Now you should have a great outdoor bench. One tip: prime and paint all the boards before you attach all the pieces. Believe me, it's impossible to get between the slats once it's assembled.